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LIMEHURST
Rural District Council.

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INTERIM REPORT
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Rural District
of
LIMEHURST

INTERIM REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1942

and

THE REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1942.

Limehurst Rural District Council

1942-43.



Members of the Council :	Parish.
Councillor T. OLLERENSHAW, J.P. Chairman.....	Waterloo
,, S. HOWARD, J.P. Vice-Chairman	Waterloo.
,, J. COOPER, J.P.	Woodhouses.
,, R. G. STAFFORD	Littlemoss.
,, E. COLLINGE	Bardsley.
,, F. CLOUGH	Alt.

Officials :

G. R. HINTON.....	Clerk to the Council.
H. BOARDMAN, M.B.,CH.B.,D.P.H.,....	Medical Officer of Health.
W. DAWSON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,.....	Sanitary Inspector.
A. FISHER.....	Surveyor.
A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A.,	Rating Officer.
H. E. TURNER, F.S.I.....	Valuation Officer (part time).

Public Health Staff :

Medical Officer of Health.
Sanitary Inspector.

INTERIM REPORT

COUNCIL OFFICES,

200, OLDHAM ROAD, WATERLOO,

NR. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

AUGUST, 1943.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE

Limehurst Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health I have the honour to submit for your consideration an Interim Report on the health of the district during the year ending 31st December, 1942.

The Campaign for immunisation against diphtheria is progressing steadily and the response has been good. The work of the Health Visitor and local propaganda play an important part in achieving this.

I feel, however, that until the percentage of children immunised is raised the position cannot be regarded with complacency.

I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the ladies who have attended the Child Welfare Centre and have voluntarily tendered such valuable assistance each week.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Dawson for his unremitting and continued help, particularly with regard to the A.R.P. Casualty Services which have been reorganised to meet the changing situation, caused by the call-up for the services and the demands of industry.

To the Clerk, Surveyor and other Officials of the Council I tender my thanks for their continued assistance and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BOARDMAN,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE.

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt	1,132·724	270	3,152	12
Bardsley.....	883·076	545	6,850	26
Littlemoss	703·802	204	2,985	11
Waterloo	341·139	1,233	14,683	55
Woodhouses ...	627·545	233	2,242	8
Totals...	3,688·286	2,485	29,912	112

Population at 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead).....8,151

Population 1942—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No epidemics of infectious disease occurred during the year. With the exception of measles the number of infectious diseases was very low. 78 cases of measles were reported without any serious outbreak in any parish. No cases of cerebro-spinal fever or paratyphoid fever were reported. Only six cases of diphtheria were notified.

Three cases of scarlet fever, three diphtheria, one erysipelas, one whooping cough and one case for observation were accommodated at the following hospitals :—

OLDHAM (Westhulme)	6 cases.
HYDE	1 case.
ROCHDALE	1 case.
BURY	1 case.

Ambulance facilities in each case were provided by the Hospital admitting the patient.

There has been no change from previous years with regard to Hospital accommodation and ambulance facilities for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

With regard to non-infectious cases, Oldham Ambulance serves four parishes and Ashton-under-Lyne Ambulance one parish.

This arrangement provides an adequate Ambulance Service for the whole District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1942
Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.			
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total Deaths (the figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital.—Total Cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.	
Smallpox	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Group	...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenza Pneumonia	...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis-Lethargica	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	78	2	6	2	1	2	22	11	33	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Notifiable diseases	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	112	4	9	5	26	11	41	6	2	1	3	4	—	4	—	8

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15								
15—20	1	3						
20—25		2						
25—35			1		1		1	
35—45	5				1			
45—55								
55—65	1				1			
65 and over			1					
	7	5	1	1	3	1	0	0
	12		2		4		0	

Proper notification, prior to death, was received in each case of death from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The scheme for immunisation against diphtheria has been in operation throughout the year.

Various means of keeping the matter constantly before parents have been adopted, perhaps the most valuable being the continual advocacy of this measure at the Child Welfare Clinic.

Sessions have been held regularly at the Immunisation Clinic all through the year, and a total of 151 children have been immunised. The Clinic is held at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo.

Details are as follows :

No. of children immunised during year.	Prophylactics used
(a) Pre-school children 51	A.P.T.
(b) Schoolchildren - 100	53, A.P.T. 47, T.A.F.

Since the scheme commenced in January 1941, a total of 536 children have been immunised. 167 children immunised were in the pre-school age group and 369 were school children.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district but facilities are available for school children at the County Clinic, Post Office Buildings, Royton. Detailed plans for the erection of a School Clinic in the Rural District were well advanced but had to be postponed owing to the war.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is now held every Thursday afternoon.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The midwife allocated to the Rural District is Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N., residing at 5 Ney Street, Waterloo. Tel. ASH. 2033.

SEWERAGE.

No further progress with regard to the sewerage of the three unsewered parishes has been made. It appears unlikely that any of the recommendations of the Consulting Engineer can be put into effect during the war.

BYE-LAWS.

Building Bye-laws under the Public Health Act, 1936 are now in force in the District.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS, for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (with mechanical power)	35	1	—
Factories (without mechanical power)	10	2	—
Other premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total	45	3	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosec- utions (5)
	Found (2)	Rem- edied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
unsuitable or defective ...	11	11	—	—
not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	2	2	—	—
Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	13	13	—	—

Two visits made to outworkers premises ; in two instances unsatisfactory sanitary conditions were found. Two written notices sent to the owner of the premises. Both were complied with. No prosecutions instituted. The work carried on was the making of wearing apparel.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress made during the year.

Present day conditions have not been conducive to any extensive progress with regard to sanitary improvements, rather has it been a continual effort to prevent serious inroads into standards already established. Shortage of man power and materials are the main causes of the difficulty and, to a lesser extent this year, the calls of Civil Defence duties.

In the main, the more important housing defects have been dealt with, often, however, after some delay.

No complaints from any quarter, were received regarding the cleanliness or keeping quality of the milk produced in this area. As the bulk of the milk is consumed in adjoining towns, some satisfaction can be felt. Every effort will be required to maintain this position having regard to the problems involved.

The condition of meat and other foods supplied to the district has been satisfactory.

I would like to express my thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council for their continued help and valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

W. DAWSON, Sanitary Inspector.

Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1942 (concerning 162 houses).....	133
No. of same complied with during 1942 (concerning 147 houses).	121

NOTE.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.

No. of Statutory Notices served (for 62 houses).....	28
" " complied with	28
" " Legal Proceedings authorised	Nil
" " taken	Nil

27 of the Statutory Notices were served in respect of nuisances and one for sanitary defects.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the year.....	112
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A tabulated statement is given on pages 5 and 6

Number of premises disinfected (houses)	25
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REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council now undertake the Scavenging of all parishes within the Rural District, Alt being added in 1940. Since scavenging is a service fundamental in character and an absolute necessity to a healthy environment, every effort has been made to maintain a reasonably adequate service. The standard and regularity of collection has been satisfactory despite the many present day difficulties.

Last year the Council embarked on a scheme to purchase dustbins and pails in quantities for re-sale to owners in the District. The reason for this action was the great difficulty being experienced by many owners in obtaining either pails or dustbins and the large number of requests to the Council to supply these articles. Since the commencement of this scheme 88 dustbins and 49 pails have been sold to owners of property in the district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, &c.

A tabulated statement follows of the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes. During the year the following conversions have been carried out.

5 pail closets have been converted to water closets.

14 dustbins have been provided in lieu of ashpits, etc.

The following is a list of recorded improvements, renewals, &c.

- 14 Entirely new Dustbins provided.
- 64 Dustbins renewed.
- 3 Pail Closets abolished.
- 8 Dry Ashpits and ground pits abolished.
- 38 Closet Pails provided, including renewals and conversions.
- 25 premises where water closet repaired.
- 2 premises where drains were entirely reconstructed.
- 1 premises where new branch drains were laid.
- 4 premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired.
- 37 drain blockages cleared.

The closet accommodation for 1,912 houses is on the water carriage system.

The number of dustbins now to be emptied in the whole district is 2,166 as against 171 in 1922.

Virtually all the 584 pail closets and the 38 privy closets are remote from the public sewer and the question of converting these to water closets is bound up with the larger problem of the provision of sewers and sewerage facilities to the unsewered parts of the district.

There are 506 waste water closets in the district. It is generally agreed that this type of convenience should be abolished at the first opportunity and replaced by fresh water closets. No important technical problem is involved in this matter, the only real difficulty is one of finance.

There should be no difficulty in abolishing the 106 ashpits after the war when supplies of dustbins are readily available.

TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1942.

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt ...	71	22	194	207	6	11	12	11	2	1
Bardsley ...	373	205	27	461	4	5	2	2	22	4
Littlemoss ...	121	10	127	185	2	2	2	3	8	0
Waterloo ...	1047	268	3	1089	1	2	—	—	74	6
Woodhouses	30	1	233	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals ...	1642	506	584	2166	14	21	17	17	106	15

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

No public slaughterhouse is established in the district. There are four private slaughterhouses, one in Bardsley and three in Waterloo.

In January 1940, private slaughtering ceased, all slaughtering being subject to Government control from this date. No Government slaughterhouse was established in Limehurst.

A constant watch is kept on foodstuffs, including meat, coming into the shops in the district.

During the year 21 inspections have been made at slaughterhouses where permits have been given for slaughtering to take place.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government :

127 lbs pork (including one carcase).

46 lbs lamb (including one carcase).

76 lbs beef.

224 tins of foodstuffs, weighing 279 lbs.

14 lbs of butter.

Places where foodstuffs are prepared, stored or sold are subject to continual inspection.

Legal proceedings have been taken in one instance. This was the case that was reported to be pending in last year's report. Details are as follows :

The offence in question took place in December, 1941. The Court dealt with the matter in February of this year. A cow was slaughtered in Woodhouses without the licence of the Ministry of Food and without the required notification to this Council. Further, the carcase was removed before inspection and no notification was given of such removal. The post mortem condition revealed obvious evidence of extensive disease, but again no notification was given. Keen observation by Police Officers drew attention to an effort to remove the carcase from the place of slaughter. Ministry of Food Officials and Officers of this Council were notified and the carcase was seized. Arising out of these circumstances this Council took out seven summonses against four men under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and the Meat Regulations, 1924

Convictions were recorded on every count and a total of £63 in fines plus £3 3s. costs were imposed. These penalties were in addition to heavy fines inflicted for offences dealt with by the Ministry of Food.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 63 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 61 cowkeepers all of whom are on the register. The total number of cows kept is 1,000 approx.

In addition to the 61 cowkeepers who are also dairy-men with registered dairy premises, there are five resident dairymen and retail purveyors of milk with registered premises. These are not cowkeepers but buy milk in bulk and retail in the district.

Finally, there are 58 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Rural District.

Fees for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been paid by three Dairy firms this year.

Five resident dairymen and cowkeepers are licenced by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited Milk." Three of these producers are also licenced for bottling.

During the year one instance of tubercle in milk has been dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries after notification from the County Medical Officer of Health.

Sixteen samples of milk have been taken at the instance of the Lancashire County Council, four of these being samples of School Milk.

Two of these samples were in some degree below standard. These were followed up and investigated to detect and remedy faults of production. Further samples proved to be satisfactory.

Generally, cleanliness has been maintained and throughout the year there has not been a single complaint from any source with regard to dirty or early souring milk.

Last year it was urged that every effort should be made to keep the standard of cleanliness of milk at a satisfactory level having regard to the high food value of clean and disease free milk. The absence of any complaint during the year,

whilst satisfactory in itself, gives no room for any complacency that may lead to relaxation of effort. The present shortage of labour, blackout problems and other difficulties occasioned by the war make it imperative that there shall be no slackening of the standard that has been maintained so far.

A large number of inspections have been made to keep a constant check on methods of production throughout the year.

The condition of the buildings in which milk is produced has an important though not decisive effect on the product. It is possible to produce clean milk in unsatisfactory buildings but it is much easier to achieve that result in buildings properly adapted for the purpose, and so constructed as to render the task of the producer much lighter. The human element is vitally important, but, in general, better conditions and facilities lead to improved results in the milk producing industry as in other walks of life.

For many years it has been the policy of this Council to obtain improvement in the buildings and equipment at milk producing farms,

During the war, progress has been very seriously retarded due to the shortages of materials and labour.

In 1942 four important improvements were recorded :

1. Entire remodelling of a 16 cow shippon at Littlemoss including new concrete floors, metal boskins, new window frames, etc.
2. New concrete floors to a 16 cow shippon and a 14 cow shippon at Woodhouses.
3. New steam boiler, washing tank and other facilities for sterilisation fitted to a farm at Bardsley. Water bowls for 23 cow stalls also provided.
4. Work on a new dairy to a farm in Waterloo well advanced at the end of the year.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The total number of dwelling houses in the District at the end of 1942 is 2,485, mostly of the working class type.

No new houses have been erected during the year.

Repairs have been recorded at existing houses in 140 instances during the year. This figure does not include sanitary repairs or improvements, these being set out on pages 10 and 11, but refers only to "housing" repairs. Despite an

improvement in the number of houses repaired there is accumulating a large amount of badly needed maintenance work which is required to prevent deterioration of the fabric of the structure. It is doubtful how much of this type of work can be done at the present time, but this should rank as an important job of high priority after the war.

The class of work at present being carried out is mainly that necessary to maintain a minimum standard of comfort and hygiene. Real improvements are not frequently met with and the difficulties in the way of achieving anything but urgently required repairs are almost insuperable.

During the year all very urgent work has been carried out and a considerable number of defects remedied.

No action has been necessary with regard to the closing and demolition of unfit houses.

With regard to bed bugs only in two instances has any action been necessary. Both were minor in character and home treatment, including stripping of wallpaper and treatment of bed frames and spring mattresses with paraffin, sufficed.

OVERCROWDING.

The exact position is not known and can, of course only be correctly ascertained by a new survey. It is not thought that the position is one to give rise to any serious misgivings.

One case of overcrowding was dealt with officially during the year and a licence under the Housing Act permitting a limited measure of overcrowding was issued. This was revoked when the conditions that gave rise to the problem ceased to exist. The overcrowding at this house was then abated.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Over fifty visits have been made to shops in the district during the year. One improvement of a fairly extensive character was recorded, whilst minor improvements or repairs were carried out in four instances.

No action was necessary with regard to Offices.

